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BULLETIN

OF

THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM

JANUARY, 1917

FIFTEENTH YEAR

Number 57

IN MEMORIAM

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EDWIN ATLEE BARBER, A.M., PH.D.

Born August 13, 1851. Died December 12, 1916.

The Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art has to record a grievous loss, in the death of Dr. Edwin AtLee Barber, the Director of the Museum, who passed away on December 12, 1916.

At a meeting of the Museum Committee of the Board of Trustees, held on January 2, 1917, Mr. John Story Jenks, chairman, in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted as embodying the feelings of Dr. Barber's associates and co-workers:

"WHEREAS, In the death of Dr. Edwin AtLee Barber, which occurred on December 12, 1916, the Museum has lost a most valuable officer; and

"WHEREAS, In the fifteen years of his service as Director of the Museum and Secretary of the Corporation, he showed himself scrupulously accurate in his work, and gave his entire time and such acquirements as he possessed to the discharge of his duties, devoting himself especially to the department of English and American ceramics, of which he had made a special study, giving much of his attention to Mexican maiolica, Pennsylvania-Dutch, and German and English manufactures; and

"WHEREAS, Methodical in his habits and sincerely devoted to his trust, with no desire other than a single-minded pursuit of his chosen work as collector and curator, the institution of which he was the head proceeded safely and quietly, under his guidance, along the lines marked for its development; therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That we, his colleagues who have been associated with him for many years, deeply deplore his removal from our midst, feeling that his place cannot readily be filled, and that in his death the Institution has met with a grievous loss. Also be it



EDWIN ATLEE BARBER, A.M., PH.D.

Director of the Pennsylvania Museum.

Born August 13, 1851. Died December 12, 1916.

"*Resolved*, That we wish to extend the expression of our most profound sympathy to his widow and daughter in their great sorrow, and that the Acting Secretary be and is hereby instructed to spread these resolutions at length upon the minutes of this meeting, and to send a copy thereof to Mrs. Barber."

Edwin AtLee Barber was born in Baltimore, Md., August 13, 1851. He is the eldest son of the late William Edwin Barber, Esq., and Anne E. Townsend Barber of West Chester, Pa.; grandson of John Barber, first superintendent of the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad (1829-1833); great-grandson of James Barber, a captain in the Revolutionary war; great-great-grandson of Colonel Samuel John AtLee of the Pennsylvania State Battalion of Musketry, who was taken prisoner by the British at the Battle of Long Island, on August 27, 1776.

Mr. Barber went to West Chester, Pa., with his father in 1857, after having resided for a short time in Davenport, Iowa, and here his preliminary education was received in the Orthodox Friends' and the public schools. In 1868 he entered Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass., where he pursued an English course of studies, graduating in 1869. He then entered Lafayette College, class of 1873, where he continued his studies until 1872. The College conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts in 1880 and, in 1893, that of Doctor of Philosophy.

Mr. Barber was appointed Assistant Naturalist on the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories in 1874, and in 1875 he accompanied a portion of the same Survey into the ancient ruin districts of southwestern Colorado and the adjacent territory in Utah and Arizona, as special correspondent for the New York *Herald*. From 1879 to 1885 he occupied the position of Superintendent of the West Philadelphia post office, and was Chairman and Secretary of the United States Civil Service Examining Board for the Philadelphia post office.

In 1879 he was appointed Chief of the Department of Archæology of the Permanent Exhibition in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, an honorary position, and in 1892 was made Honorary Curator of the new Department of American Pottery and Porcelain at the Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia.

On February 5, 1880, Mr. Barber was married to Miss Nellie Louise Parker, daughter of the late Major William H. Parker, of the United States Marine Corps, and of Mary Louise Young Parker.

For several years Mr. Barber was one of the associate editors of the *American Antiquarian*. In 1885 he established and edited *The Museum*, an illustrated journal for collectors and young naturalists, of which, however, for lack of sufficient support, only four numbers were issued.

In 1901 he was elected Curator of the Pennsylvania Museum and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, and in 1907 he became Director of the Pennsylvania Museum.

Dr. Edwin AtLee Barber was a member of:

The American Philosophical Society;
The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia;

Corresponding member of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin,
and of The Virginia Historical Society;
Socio Corresponsal de la Sociedad Mexicana de Historia Natural;
Membre Correspondant Etranger de la Société d'Anthropologie de
Paris;
The English Ceramic Society;
The International Committee of the Ceramic Museum of Faenza,
Italy;
The Walpole Society;
Corresponding member of the Hispanic Society of America;
The Society of Sons of the Revolution.

He was collaborator of the new edition of the Century Dictionary.

Dr. Barber catalogued numerous collections of ceramics, both public and private, among which may be mentioned the following: Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia, Pa.; Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.; Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, Conn.; Art Institute, Chicago, Ill.; Hispanic Museum, New York; Mrs. Robert W. de Forest, New York (Mexican Maiolica); Miss Maude L. Buckingham, Chicago, Ill. (Lustre ware); W. S. Hill, New York; Dr. Pleasant Hunter, Newark, N. J.; Mrs. Miles White, Jr., Baltimore, Md.; Albany, N. Y.; Providence, R. I.; Tuxedo Park, N. Y.



THE EXHIBITION OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN FURNITURE

The Exhibition of English and American Furniture of the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries, which was held in November, 1916, began to be dismantled about December first, some of the loans having been called in. In itself the collection was a notable one, and the number of visitors which it attracted to the Pennsylvania Museum, Memorial Hall, was very large. On the opening day, the number of guests who attended the reception reached 429; and throughout the period when the exhibition remained on view, the attendance ran into many thousands. The identifying and packing of the pieces of furniture loaned occupied considerable time, but was approaching completion when Dr. Edwin AtLee Barber was stricken down with double pneumonia and died four days later on December twelfth. The work of dismantling the loan collection, however, was well under way when this lamentable event took place, and the Museum's assistants had no difficulty in carrying it to successful completion. The last was returned on January sixth, as far as is known, without damage. Also the return of the objects from time to time